Creation of farm produce Marketing Authority

1813. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of various farm produce including milk and fish and meat have been escalating specially in Delhi;

(b) whether Government would immediately create a Farm Produce Marketing Authority to fix fair prices for producers and consumers in order to stop present stranglehold of middlemen;

(c) whether role of ensuring quality control would be also handed over to this Authority apart form fixation of producer and consumer prices;and

(d) whether interests of producers and consumers will be effectively represented on this Authority which would fix prices on a continued weekly/fortnightly/ monthly or longer basis for all farm produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The retail prices of foodgrains, milk, fish and meat have remained steady or shown only marginal or moderate fluctuations during the last few months in Delhi and other centres like Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Calcutta and Chandigarh.

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. However, the intertests of producers and consumers are kept in view by the Government while fixing procurement/ support prices in respect of important agricultural commodities and prices of essential items like rice and wheat supplied through the Public Distribution System.

Timings of Fair Price Shops in Delhi

1814. SHRI N.RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the time for opening of Fair Price Shops in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that Fair Price Shop owners in Mahipalpur village, Delhi, open their shops only for two hours in a day; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter and punish such shopowners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The timings for opening of Fair Price Shops in Delhi are us under:—

9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
3.30 P.M. to 7.30 P.M.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

Buffer stock of foodgrains

1815. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's foodgrains stocks are at a precariouly low level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action to be taken with regard to the maintenance of foodgrain stocks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The stock position of foodgrains with public agencies as on 1st February, 1989 at 9.25 million tonnes comprising 4.30 million tonnes of wheat, 4.86 million tonnes of Rice and 0 09 million tonnes of